

money for this program, so how can we complain now when that money was spent? In fact, not all of it was spent I might tell you. They were actually a little bit more conservative with their expenditures than we were with our appropriation. So I guess I would like to echo what Tim Hall said. This is a valuable program. It reaches students that aren't reached by other programs. Probably the main problem that at risk students have is our self-esteem problems. This kind of a program can measurably add to the confidence of at risk students. I have a letter in my hand that came to the committee in February in time for our committee hearing and I'd just like to read some portions of this to you because this young man says, in addition, and I'm reading into the middle of the letter now, in addition, each of us who participated were challenged to set some goals within our local community. In formulating our goals, encouragement was given to us in establishing a working relationship with our state legislators. I have personally established contact with one of our legislators. The senator is currently seeking and using information from me which will contribute to the passage of a bill now introduced. Through the academy's experience I have gained the confidence and the abilities to carry out one of my goals. Lastly, I feel that these experiences during the academy have helped me grow and learn much more about my capabilities. It has helped me realize that I have just as much opportunity to pursue goals as anyone else. Now that's a pretty important sentence. It has helped me realize that I have just as much opportunity to pursue goals as anyone else. My ambition some day is to perhaps even become more involved with our legislative government as my thoughts may inspire me to seek a legislative office. And then he closes with appreciation and saying, eliminating the academy would greatly deprive the youth of Nebraska the opportunity to learn and grow from our state legislators and valuable experience, et cetera. Ladies and gentlemen, we don't provide, I don't know of another opportunity out there for this group of students that we call at risk. So I think that these students, perhaps more than any other category that we could address, we can have more impact on. I would very much like to support Senator Hefner's amendment after we've discussed this because I do think that we need to get a handle on the financial aspects of it. Senator Hefner, I think I would agree with Senator Hall that perhaps that is a bit miserly, but I can accept your figure, depending on what the body wants.

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.